

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Title with the following:

UNIFIED INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM FOR HETEROGENEOUS
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

Please insert the following heading after Page 1, line 7:

BACKGROUND

Please insert the following heading after Page 2, line 13:

SUMMARY

Please insert the following heading before Page 5, line 1:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading after Page 5, line 16:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 13, line 30 as follows:

Another unit is the instant message processor (IMP). Sometimes they are called *internal gateways*, as they do not perform net-transport protocol conversions. The IMP MPU performs value-added-service for the message processing like language conversion (e.g. german-french), speech processing, bank payment/accounting, digital signing, watermarking, etc.

Please amend the sentence on page 14, line 19 as follows:

- Ensures message authentication, using ~~MIAP~~IMAP (as described)

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 16, line 1 as follows:

- Arbitrary messages can be personalized (a "for your eyes only" or confidential message) with the intended receiver client. That is that only the receiver is able to read the message. Beyond it, the message is forward protected, i.e. the receiver is not allowed to forward the private message to another client. ~~The Of cause the~~ message can be copied by cut-and-paste, screen dump or by simply writing it down. But in comparison to a usual messaging system the original message content with the message header (time, date, originator, etc.) can not be forwarded to another client. Message confidentiality and personalization is realized by authentication and optionally encrypting with a receiver key that is valid only for the intended receiver and the given message.